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BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COM

2 MIKE GLEASON

CHAIRMAN

WILLIAM A. MUNDELL COMMISSIONER

JEFF HATCH-MILLER

COMMISSIONER

KRISTIN K. MAYES COMMISSIONER

GARY PIERCE

COMMISSIONER

Docket No. W-01303A-05-0405

W-01303A-05-0910

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF ARIZONA-AMERICAN WATER COMPANY, INC., AN ARIZONA CORPORATION, FOR A DETERMINATION OF THE CURRENT FAIR VALUE OF ITS UTILITY PLANT AND PROPERTY AND FOR INCREASES IN ITS RATES AND CHARGES BASED THEREON FOR UTILITY SERVICE BY ITS PARADISE VALLEY WATER DISTRICT.

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Arizona Corporation Commission
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NOTICE OF FILING

The Residential Utility Consumer Office ("RUCO") hereby provides notice of filing the Direct Settlement Testimony of William A. Rigsby, in the above-referenced matter.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 24th day of April 2008

Daniel W. Pozefsky

Attorney

1	AN ORIGINAL AND THIRTEEN COPIES
2	of the foregoing filed this 24 th day of April 2008 with:
3	Docket Control Arizona Corporation Commission
4	1200 West Washington Phoenix, Arizona 85007
5	COPIES of the foregoing hand delivered/
6	mailed this 24 th day of April 2008 to:
7	Teena Wolfe Administrative Law Judge
8	Hearing Division
9	Arizona Corporation Commission 1200 West Washington Phoenix, Arizona 85007
10	,
11	Christopher Kempley, Chief Counsel Legal Division
12	Arizona Corporation Commission 1200 West Washington Phoenix, Arizona 85007
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14	Ernest Johnson, Director Utilities Division Arizona Corporation Commission
15	1200 West Washington Phoenix, Arizona 85007
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17	Paul M. Li Arizona-American Water 19820 N. 7 th Street, Suite 201
18	Phoenix, Arizona 85024
19	Craig A. Marks, Attorney At Law Craig A. Marks, PLC
20	3420 E. Shea Blvd., Suite 200 Phoenix, Arizona 85028
21	Robert J. Metli
22	Snell & Wilmer L.L.P.
23	One Arizona Center 400 E. Van Buren Phoenix, AZ 85004-2202

Timothy J. Casey Schmitt, Schneck, Smyth & Herrod PC 1221 E. Osborne Road, Suite 105 Phoenix, Arizona 85014

-2-

ARIZONA AMERICAN WATER COMPANY, INC (PARADISE VALLEY WATER DISTRICT)

DOCKET NO. W-01303A-05-0405

DIRECT TESTIMONY

OF

WILLIAM A. RIGSBY, CRRA

ON BEHALF OF

THE

RESIDENTIAL UTILITY CONSUMER OFFICE

APRIL 24, 2008

Direct Testimony of William A. Rigsby Arizona-American Water Company, Inc. Docket No. W-01303A-05-0405

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INTRODUCTION

- 2 Q. Please state your name, occupation, and business address.
 - A. My Name is William A. Rigsby. I am a Public Utilities Analyst V employed by the Residential Utility Consumer Office ("RUCO") located at 1110 W. Washington, Suite 220, Phoenix, Arizona 85007.
 - Q. Please describe your qualifications in the field of utility regulation and your educational background.
 - A. I have been involved with utility regulation in Arizona since 1994. During that period of time I have worked as a utilities rate analyst for both the Arizona Corporation Commission ("ACC" or "Commission") and for RUCO. I hold a Bachelor of Science degree in the field of finance from Arizona State University and a Master of Business Administration degree, with an emphasis in accounting, from the University of Phoenix. I have also been awarded the professional designation, Certified Rate of Return Analyst ("CRRA") by the Society of Utility and Regulatory Financial Analysts ("SURFA"). The CRRA designation is awarded based upon experience and the successful completion of a written examination. Appendix I, which is attached to this testimony, further describes my educational background and also includes a list of the rate cases and regulatory matters that I have been involved with.

- Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?
 - The purpose of my testimony is to present RUCO's position on a rate A. design agreement ("Rate Design Agreement") that was filed with the ACC on January 15, 2008. The Rate Design Agreement was reached by ("Arizona-American" Arizona-American Water Company, Inc. "Company"), and signed by the Town of Paradise Valley, Sanctuary on Mountain. Camelback Inn. Scottsdale Renaissance, Camelback Camelhead Estates II Home Owners Association, Clearwater Hills Improvement Association and Finisterre Home Owners Association (hereinafter referred to as the "Parties"). Neither Arizona-American nor RUCO are signatories to the Rate Design Agreement. The purpose of the Rate Design Agreement is represented by the Parties as a mitigation of the effects of rate shock that has been experienced by a number of Arizona-American's Paradise Valley District's residential and resort customers since the implementation of the rate design that was ordered in Decision No. 68858, dated November 14, 2005.
 - Q. Does RUCO support of the Rate Design Agreement?
 - A. No. For the reasons that will be explained in my testimony, RUCO is opposed to the Rate Design Agreement that is now before the Commission.

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Direct Testimony of William A. Rigsby Arizona-American Water Company, Inc. Docket No. W-01303A-05-0405

- Q. Have you filed any prior testimony in this docket on behalf of RUCO?
 - A. Yes. I filed both direct and surebuttal testimony on behalf of RUCO during the Arizona-American Paradise Valley District rate case proceeding which resulted in Decision No. 68858. I have also been present for discussions that have taken place between RUCO and Paradise Valley District residential customers and the representatives for the aforementioned resorts who are dissatisfied with the rate design that is presently in effect.
 - Q. How is your testimony organized?
 - A. My testimony is organized into four sections. First, the introduction that I have just presented and second, a brief background on the events that led up to the filing of the Rate Design Agreement that is now before the Commission. Third, I will provide a discussion of the Rate Design Agreement and why RUCO opposes it. Finally I will present RUCO's final recommendation on the Rate Design Agreement and how RUCO believes the current rate design issues should be resolved.

BACKGROUND

- Q. Please provide a brief summary of the events that occurred prior to the filing of the Agreement that is now before the Commission.
- A. On July 3, 2005, Arizona-American, a wholly owned subsidiary of RWE AG, filed an application with the ACC requesting approval of a determination of the current fair value of the Company's utility plant and for

increases in rates and charges for customers receiving water service from Arizona-American's Paradise Valley Water District. During the test year ended December 31, 2004, Arizona-American provided water service to an average of 4,717 Paradise Valley customers of which approximately 4,411, or 93.5 percent, were residential customers.

In addition to an increase in revenues, Arizona-American also sought approval for surcharges on both an arsenic cost recovery mechanism ("ACRM") and a public safety surcharge ("PSS") mechanism. The ACRM surcharge would allow the Company to recover costs associated with meeting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's revised arsenic standard of 10 parts per billion. The PSS would allow Arizona-American to recover all capital related costs for \$16 million in post-test year fire flow improvements that were scheduled to be completed before the Company's next scheduled general rate case in 2010. Arizona-American also sought a high usage surcharge ("HUS") for the purpose of promoting conservation in the Paradise Valley District.

RUCO was granted intervenor status in the proceeding and filed written testimony prior to the evidentiary hearing on the Company's rate increase request.

The evidentiary hearing on the matter was conducted from March 27 2006 through April 3, 2006. On Tuesday, July 25, 2006, the Commission adopted, by a vote of 4 to 1, Decision No. 68858. The Decision ordered the implementation of the aforementioned ACRM surcharge (at a future

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DISCUSSION OF THE AGREEMENT

Commission on January 15, 2008?

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17 A. Yes, I have.

2007).

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¹ RUCO did not join in the request to reconsider the Decision.

Please discuss the Rate Design Agreement.

The Rate Design Agreement seeks the following:

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date after the filing of required documents and schedules by the

Company) and an ACC Staff modified version of Arizona-American's

Shortly after the passage of Decision No. 68858, both the ACC and RUCO

began receiving complaints from Paradise Valley District Customers who

were experiencing rate shock as a result of the HUS which was used to

fund fire flow improvements (the PSS did not go into effect until October

After a number of filings which requested the Commission to reconsider

Decision No. 68858¹, the Commission voted to reconsider the Decision for

the limited purpose of reviewing the Rate Design Agreement at a noticed

Have you read the Rate Design Agreement that was filed with the

proposed rate design that included the PSS and HUS.

ACC Staff meeting held on February 27, 2008.

- 1) A reduction of the existing HUS from \$2.15 to \$1.00 per 1,000 gallons of water sold effective March 1, 2008. The reduced HUS would recover all un-recovered fire flow improvement costs incurred up to the end of February 2008 and would continue to be booked by the Company as CIAC.
- 2) On March 1, 2008 the existing \$1.00 per 1,000 gallons of water sold PSS would be reset to \$0.00 and would subsequently be replaced with an ACRM-like mechanism that would allow for regular step increases to recover the costs associated with new fire flow plant at the Commission approved 10.40 percent cost of equity.
- The PSS would continue to apply only to the commodity portion of the rate and the first step increase filing would likely occur in the later part of 2008 after Phase 3 of the fire flow project is completed.

 A charge of \$0.125 per 1,000 gallons of water is estimated for the first step increase under the proposed ACRM-like mechanism.
- 4) For fire flow plant construction phases completed after March 1, 2008, the PSS would be designed to recover fifty percent of the investment in the improvements. The revised HUS would cover the remaining fifty percent at least until a final order is issued by the

ACC in Arizona-American's next rate case proceeding before the Commission.

All other rate design features of the HUS and PSS and accounting deferrals would remain in their present form until a final order is issued by the ACC in Arizona-American's next rate case proceeding.

Ompany will request that the proceeds from the HUS be no longer treated as CIAC, and instead be treated as an investment in plant in service that would provide the Company with a return on investment and be fully recoverable in rates.

7) The Rate Design Agreement provides a timetable for the completion of Phases 3 through 7 of the fire flow improvements, but has no cost estimates for Phases 5 through 7.

Q. What is RUCO's position on the Rate Design Agreement?

RUCO is opposed to the Rate Design Agreement.

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recognizes that the Commission has authorized the recovery of the costs

our opposition to the Rate Design Agreement is not an attempt to undercut

of fire flow improvements over RUCO's previously-expressed objections,

While RUCO

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the ACC's decision to permit the recovery of fire flow costs. Rather our objection, in part is to the use of an extraordinary devise (i.e. an adjustor mechanism) to recover these costs. In addition, RUCO objects to the Rate Design Agreement because it would shift the recovery of costs away from high use customers – contrary to the conservation goals of the current rate design.

- Q. What aspects of the Rate Design Agreement is RUCO concerned with?
- A. RUCO is concerned with several of the proposals in the Rate Design Agreement. RUCO's principal objection concerns the ACRM-like mechanism that is being proposed.
- Q. Why is RUCO opposed to the use of an ACRM-like mechanism to recover fire flow costs?
 - There are several reasons why RUCO is opposed to the ACRM-like mechanism. Adjustor mechanisms are extraordinary rate recovery devices that are permitted for certain narrow circumstances. The ACRM is a type of adjustor mechanism that was specifically designed to address a one-time event that impacted dozens of Arizona water companies simultaneously. The Company's expenditures for fire flow are not the type of expense for which an adjustor mechanism is generally permitted, nor are they similar to the costs recovered through the ACRM.

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The original ACRM was approved by the Commission to give water providers in Arizona the ability to recover the costs associated with meeting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ("EPA") revised drinking water arsenic standard of 10 parts per billion. The EPA's requirement that water providers comply with the more stringent standard was in effect an unfunded mandate from the federal government. Multiple Arizona water providers had no choice but to either comply with the EPA's rule or face the consequences of being in violation of it. This being the case, representatives from the state's investor owned water companies, ACC Staff, and RUCO developed the present ACRM which allows water utilities to comply with the new EPA standard through a surcharge that was established within the context of a rate case proceeding where a constitutional finding of a utility's fair value has been established. The key point here is that the EPA's revised arsenic standard represented an extraordinary circumstance that neither Arizona's government, which includes the Commission, or the state's water companies, either investor owned or municipal, had any control over, and that would be impacting a number of water utilities simultaneously. Under the Rate Design Agreement, Arizona-American can seek step increases to fund future construction phases that have no definite cost

estimates at this time. By approving the Rate Case Agreement with its

ACRM-like mechanism that allows for an unspecified number of step

increases, the Commission may well be handing a blank check to the Company.

No. There is no federal, or for that matter any other, mandates requiring

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Q. Are there any similar mandates in regard to the fire flow improvements?

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that Arizona-American be required to construct the fire flow improvements

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that Paradise Valley District ratepayers are now funding through the HUS

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and PSS. Nor are there any other extraordinary circumstances that would

warrant the approval of an ACRM-like mechanism in this case. As I stated

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earlier, the Company was and, to the best of my knowledge, still is in

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compliance with the ACC's rules regarding fire protection. In this

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proceeding, the Town of Paradise Valley desired fire flow improvements which exceeded the ACC's requirements that the Company was in

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compliance with. Because Arizona-American is in compliance with

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existing Commission fire flow rules, the expenditures required for the fire

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Q. Are there other ways in which the proposed ACRM-like mechanism is different than the original ACRM?

flow improvements are therefore discretionary in nature.

Yes. The ACRMs that the Commission has approved have been for projects that had definite cost estimates, but the Company has no definite cost estimates for future phases of the fire flow project. Further, the ACRMs that have been approved have all permitted only a fixed number

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of step increases. The proposed ACRM-like mechanism would allow for an unspecified number of step increases. By approving the proposed mechanism, the Commission may well be handing the Company a blank check for fire flow improvements.

Q. Does RUCO have any other concerns regarding the Rate Design Agreement?

Yes, the proposed Rate Design Agreement will harm the residential class of ratepayers by shifting the recovery of fire flow costs from high-end users to low-end users. The PSS currently is collected in proportion to commodity usage. Under the proposed Rate Design Agreement, the costs for the fire flow improvements would be recovered from all of the Company's customers as opposed to only high-end users. This would discourage conservation which was one of the chief features of the present rate design.

The new rate design would also spread the cost to many ratepayers who are not affected under the current rate design. The use of an ACRM-like mechanism is inappropriate and would shift costs from the resorts to ratepayers who are currently unaffected by the current rate design.

- Q. Currently, the HUS proceeds are treated as contributions in aid-of-construction ("CIAC"), but the Rate Design Agreement proposes that, in the Company's next rate case, those proceeds would be treated as investment that would earn a return. What is your reaction to that aspect of the proposal?
- A. It is appropriate to treat the proceeds of the HUS as CIAC, because they are non-investor-supplied funds for the specific purpose of funding the fire flow plant. Since these funds are not being provided by Arizona-American's investors, it would be patently unfair for the Company to earn a rate of return on them. The Commission should reject the Rate Design Agreement's proposal to allow the Company to earn a return on HUS proceeds after the next rate case.
- Q. Please summarize your objections to the Rate Design Agreement.
- A. For the reasons stated above, RUCO does not believe that Paradise Valley Ratepayers will be any better off under the proposals contained in the Rate Design Agreement. The advantages of the proposed surcharge reductions may prove to be meaningless if the proposed ACRM-like mechanism, that has a provision for no specified number of future step increases, is approved. Furthermore the very fact that an ACRM-like mechanism could be approved to fund a project that is clearly discretionary in nature (due to the fact that Arizona-American is already in compliance with the ACC' fire flow rules), harms different classes of

federal or state mandates, makes the approval of the Rate Design

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RECOMMENDATIONS

6 Q. What are RUCO's final recommendations?

Agreement totally unacceptable in RUCO's view.

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A. For the reasons stated above, RUCO recommends that the Commission reject the Rate Design Agreement. RUCO believes that Arizona-American's upcoming rate case application, which is expected to be filed sometime in either April or May 2008, is the better forum to make changes to the Company's existing rate design for recovery of the fire flow costs. The rate case will provide all of the concerned parties with the opportunity to examine this issue with all of the other ratemaking elements that determine what just and reasonable rates should be for the Company's Paradise Valley District ratepayers.

Does your silence on any of the issues, matters or findings addressed in

the testimony of any of the other witness who have testified in this docket

constitute your acceptance of their positions on such issues, matters or

ratepayers, has no definite final cost estimates and is not required by any

findings?

A. No, it does not.

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Direct Testimony of William A. Rigsby Arizona-American Water Company, Inc. Docket No. W-01303A-05-0405

- 1 Q. Does this conclude your testimony?
- 2 A. Yes, it does.

Qualifications of William A. Rigsby, CRRA

EDUCATION:

University of Phoenix

Master of Business Administration, Emphasis in Accounting, 1993

Arizona State University College of Business

Bachelor of Science, Finance, 1990

Mesa Community College

Associate of Applied Science, Banking and Finance, 1986

Society of Utility and Regulatory Financial Analysts 38th Annual Financial Forum and CRRA Examination Georgetown University Conference Center, Washington D.C. Awarded the Certified Rate of Return Analyst designation after successfully completing SURFA's CRRA examination.

Michigan State University Institute of Public Utilities

N.A.R.U.C. Annual Regulatory Studies Program, 1997 &1999

Florida State University

Center for Professional Development & Public Service N.A.R.U.C. Annual Western Utility Rate School, 1996

EXPERIENCE:

Public Utilities Analyst V

Residential Utility Consumer Office

Phoenix, Arizona April 2001 – Present

Senior Rate Analyst

Accounting & Rates - Financial Analysis Unit Arizona Corporation Commission, Utilities Division

Phoenix, Arizona July 1999 – April 2001

Senior Rate Analyst

Residential Utility Consumer Office

Phoenix, Arizona

December 1997 - July 1999

Utilities Auditor II and III

Accounting & Rates - Revenue Requirements Analysis Unit

Arizona Corporation Commission, Utilities Division

Phoenix, Arizona

October 1994 - November 1997

Tax Examiner Technician I / Revenue Auditor II

Arizona Department of Revenue

Transaction Privilege / Corporate Income Tax Audit Units

Phoenix, Arizona

July 1991 - October 1994

RESUME OF RATE CASE AND REGULATORY PARTICIPATION

Utility Company	Docket No.	Type of Proceeding
ICR Water Users Association	U-2824-94-389	Original CC&N
Rincon Water Company	U-1723-95-122	Rate Increase
Ash Fork Development Association, Inc.	E-1004-95-124	Rate Increase
Parker Lakeview Estates Homeowners Association, Inc.	U-1853-95-328	Rate Increase
Mirabell Water Company, Inc.	U-2368-95-449	Rate Increase
Bonita Creek Land and Homeowner's Association	U-2195-95-494	Rate Increase
Pineview Land & Water Company	U-1676-96-161	Rate Increase
Pineview Land & Water Company	U-1676-96-352	Financing
Montezuma Estates Property Owners Association	U-2064-96-465	Rate Increase
Houghland Water Company	U-2338-96-603 et al	Rate Increase
Sunrise Vistas Utilities Company – Water Division	U-2625-97-074	Rate Increase
Sunrise Vistas Utilities Company – Sewer Division	U-2625-97-075	Rate Increase
Holiday Enterprises, Inc. dba Holiday Water Company	U-1896-97-302	Rate Increase
Gardener Water Company	U-2373-97-499	Rate Increase
Cienega Water Company	W-2034-97-473	Rate Increase
Rincon Water Company	W-1723-97-414	Financing/Auth. To Issue Stock
Vail Water Company	W-01651A-97-0539 et al	Rate Increase
Bermuda Water Company, Inc.	W-01812A-98-0390	Rate Increase
Bella Vista Water Company	W-02465A-98-0458	Rate Increase
Pima Utility Company	SW-02199A-98-0578	Rate Increase

RESUME OF RATE CASE AND REGULATORY PARTICIPATION (Cont.)

Utility Company	Docket No.	Type of Proceeding
Pineview Water Company	W-01676A-99-0261	WIFA Financing
I.M. Water Company, Inc.	W-02191A-99-0415	Financing
Marana Water Service, Inc.	W-01493A-99-0398	WIFA Financing
Tonto Hills Utility Company	W-02483A-99-0558	WIFA Financing
New Life Trust, Inc. dba Dateland Utilities	W-03537A-99-0530	Financing
GTE California, Inc.	T-01954B-99-0511	Sale of Assets
Citizens Utilities Rural Company, Inc.	T-01846B-99-0511	Sale of Assets
MCO Properties, Inc.	W-02113A-00-0233	Reorganization
American States Water Company	W-02113A-00-0233	Reorganization
Arizona-American Water Company	W-01303A-00-0327	Financing
Arizona Electric Power Cooperative	E-01773A-00-0227	Financing
360networks (USA) Inc.	T-03777A-00-0575	Financing
Beardsley Water Company, Inc.	W-02074A-00-0482	WIFA Financing
Mirabell Water Company	W-02368A-00-0461	WIFA Financing
Rio Verde Utilities, Inc.	WS-02156A-00-0321 et al	Rate Increase/ Financing
Arizona Water Company	W-01445A-00-0749	Financing
Loma Linda Estates, Inc.	W-02211A-00-0975	Rate Increase
Arizona Water Company	W-01445A-00-0962	Rate Increase/ACRM
Mountain Pass Utility Company	SW-03841A-01-0166	Financing
Picacho Sewer Company	SW-03709A-01-0165	Financing
Picacho Water Company	W-03528A-01-0169	Financing
Ridgeview Utility Company	W-03861A-01-0167	Financing
Green Valley Water Company	W-02025A-01-0559	Rate Increase
Bella Vista Water Company	W-02465A-01-0776	Rate Increase
Arizona Water Company	W-01445A-02-0619	Rate Increase/ACRM

RESUME OF RATE CASE AND REGULATORY PARTICIPATION (Cont.)

Utility Company	Docket No.	Type of Proceeding
Arizona-American Water Company	W-01303A-02-0867 et al.	Rate Increase
Arizona Public Service Company	E-01345A-03-0437	Rate Increase
Rio Rico Utilities, Inc.	WS-02676A-03-0434	Rate Increase
Qwest Corporation	T-01051B-03-0454	Renewed Price Cap
Chaparral City Water Company	W-02113A-04-0616	Rate Increase
Arizona Water Company	W-01445A-04-0650	Rate Increase/ACRM
Tucson Electric Power	E-01933A-04-0408	Rate Review
Southwest Gas Corporation	G-01551A-04-0876	Rate Increase
Arizona-American Water Company	W-01303A-05-0405	Rate Increase/ACRM
Black Mountain Sewer Corporation	SW-02361A-05-0657	Rate Increase
Far West Water & Sewer Company	WS-03478A-05-0801	Rate Increase
Gold Canyon Sewer Company	SW-02519A-06-0015	Rate Increase
Arizona Public Service Company	E-01345A-05-0816	Rate Increase
Arizona-American Water Company	W-01303A-06-0014	Rate Increase
Arizona-American Water Company	W-01303A-05-0718	Transaction Approval
UNS Gas, Inc.	G-04204A-06-0463	Rate Increase
Arizona-American Water Company	WS-01303A-06-0403	Rate Increase
Arizona-American Water Company	WS-01303A-06-0491	Rate Increase
UNS Electric, Inc.	E-04204A-06-0783	Rate Increase
Arizona-American Water Company	W-01303A-07-0209	Rate Increase
Tucson Electric Power	E-01933A-07-0402	Rate Increase
Southwest Gas Corporation	G-01551A-07-0504	Rate Increase